

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The Visiting Committee to Cloverhill Prison has pleasure in submitting our annual report for 2010 to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### **The Committee.**

The Committee continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month. The committee member's numbers remained at seven during 2010. The meetings were always well attended. Two members of the committee each month on a rota basis carried out unannounced visits to the prison to ensure that the prison continues to be run in a safe, humanitarian and efficient way. During the monthly visits we made a point of conducting detailed and comprehensive tours to the different areas of the prison, where we talked to both internal and external staff working in those areas and any prisoners in the vicinity. The Committee set out at the start of the year an agenda of issues they wished to monitor and explore. Also we set an objective to meet professional non prison service staff who work in specific areas in the prison to gain a better understanding of the valuable work they do. At all times the committee have remained conscious of the need to consider both security and prison sub cultural issues in the prison context.

### **Prisoners before the committee.**

There were 30 prisoners who requested to see the visiting committee in 2010 this year only 17 prisoners were seen, 10 declined and 3 were transferred when the committee came in to visit them.

Cloverhill Prison mainly accommodates remand prisoners and therefore the prison population can be somewhat transient in composition. This has the impact of ensuring a large daily turnover and discharge of the prison population, some of whom may not be recommitted. In order to ensure we see as many prisoners as possible when we visit, we endeavour to make ourselves readily available, so that there is generally little time delay in actually seeing the prisoners from the date of their actual request. On monthly meeting days any prisoner who wishes to see us was facilitated by two members meeting him before the meeting. In Cloverhill Prison the committee members actually go down to the division where the prisoner is accommodated and see him there.

The committee continued to monitor the progress of the individual prisoners who had come before them as a result of this a number of prisoners were seen by the committee on several occasions as part of this follow up procedure. Aside from this, there were also two prisoners who were seen more than once at their own request.

There were various issues raised by respective prisoners who came before us this year, requesting non-screen visits, Single cells, Non smoking cells and transfers are the main issues. We are satisfied that representations which we have made on behalf of inmates are considered by the Governor and if possible and practical are being addressed by prison management.

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### **Overcrowding**

This remains a continuous cause for concern in 2010. The highest number in custody on any day was 505 prisoners in October which given that the capacity of Cloverhill is 431 this is 74 over capacity. The previous year high was 494 in 2008, this is an increase of 11. In 2010 on three occasions the number in custody was over 500. The Committee view this as very worrying development and will continue to monitor this during 2011.

Yet again this year we have received complaints from Prisoners that committals have been put in their cell during the night on a mattress, in our opinion this causes tension and disruptions during the night to all prisoners in the cell. We have highlighted in previous reports our opinion that there is an apparent link between overcrowding and tensions in prisons, this is apart from the health and safety concerns for both staff and prisoners. We once again forcefully reiterate our opinion.

We have continued to monitor the situation with regards to late committals it appears that the new staffing arrangements for the area introduced in 2009 and continued in 2010 have resulted in the major problem in this area appearing to be resolved.

We reiterate our opinion expressed first in 2007 that prisoners committed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau should be going to a secure holding centre, not Cloverhill prison. The prison should not have to deal with what are specifically immigration problems and again we moot the question is prison an appropriate place for their detention. Once again we state that we feel that this whole area needs to be reviewed by the minister.

### **Hunger strikes**

During the year there were 2 prisoners who went on hunger strike. This was resolved by the prison Governor. One prisoner lasted for 16 days and was protesting his innocence, the committee spoke to him and tried to effect a positive resolution.

### **Foreign Nationals**

Cloverhill continues to accommodate more foreign nationals than any other prison in the country. The committee wishes to reiterate its comments made in all reports since 2006 and calls on the minister to review the area of communication which remains an increasing problem. The language barrier creates problems that need to be addressed.

The committee have repeatedly identified since 2006 the need for the development of the role of the Prison Officer, by either specifically recruiting or training up serving prison officers in language skills. Their role would be to act as prison interpreters and they would be used to deal with prisoners on committal and as required when there is a need for an interpreter. We reiterate that the possibility of Prison Governor's who are interested in learning language skills should be explored and highlight the obvious benefits when dealing with complaints.

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

We wish to highlight that Cloverhill has on average 130 foreign nationals in custody on a daily basis and has had as many as 150 in custody, a large percentage of this number are immigration cases. These men speak little or no English.

The daily average of foreign nationals is between 25- 30% of the prison population. The committee continues to reiterate its opinion that there are core languages commonly spoken by the prisoners that can be identified and these languages should be the priority languages in which training should be given or specific staff recruited and or identify if there are serving staff with these language skills. Cloverhill has 3 foreign national staff whose mother tongue is not English.

### **Bullying and Racism**

We have not had any reports made to us by Prisoners during 2010 of any incidents of bullying and racism from fellow prisoners. We reiterate that the majority of problems are caused by communication difficulties and are conscious of the potential for this given the high percentage of different nationalities here. We will continue to monitor this closely during the coming year.

### **Special Unit**

The committee feel that these prisoners should be accommodated in a purpose built facility. The actual opening of this unit resulted in prisoners who were accommodated there on protection been moved to a more restrictive regime.

### **Protection Prisoners**

There can now be upwards of 145 prisoners on protection on any given day which is an average of at least 30% of the prison population, this is a significant percentage of the prison population. This continues to place a massive strain on the prisons resources and can be a logistical nightmare. All of these prisoners have to be segregated and within that segregation there can be further segregation, which leads to consequential restricted prison regime.

We reiterate our opinion highlighted in 2008- 2009 reports that the increase in protection number is a reflection of the gang culture present in society, nothing happened in 2010 to alter our opinion. We have highlighted in previous reports that feuds and affiliations do not stop at the prison gate when people are committed to prison.

Once again we state that Cloverhill Prison was not designed to provide this level of segregation to protection prisoners. The ongoing difficulty remains for prison management that when prisoners request protection they do not know who they need protection from or are afraid to say. This creates great difficulties for prison management and prisoner alike. We have met during the year a number of prisoners who have been on protection due to the nature of their crime and others who are afraid for their own safety because of their gang affiliations or feuds. Almost all of whom have complained about the restrictive regimes on protection, but accepted it was for their own safety at the same time.

## **CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

### **Security measures**

The security measures introduced in 2008 under the auspices of the Operational support unit are continuing to run smooth here in 2010. There continues to be a number of significant seizures which are reported to the Gardaí. It is had made clear to us that there appears to be a decrease in attempts to smuggle prohibited articles in, obviously as a direct result of these measures.

### **Mobile Phones**

The smuggling of Mobile phones into prison continues to be a problem for prisons worldwide. There was a quantifiable increase in the attempts to smuggle phones into prisons towards the end of 2010 which was for specific reason identified by prison management. Prison staff continues to daily diligently try to intercept these attempts.

We are once again disappointed to note that the proposed introduction of a mobile blocking system to Cloverhill which we had hoped would be introduced in 2010 has not been yet introduced and hope it will be introduced in 2011. We note that the numbers of phones being smuggled in 2010 appears to have decreased overall.

### **Drugs**

The committee noted during the year that the passive drug detection dog is no longer been used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. We would like to express the wish that Cloverhill receives a full time dog this year, we accept that the visits here are generally screened but still we understand that there is some evidence to suggest that when the passive dog was deployed here there was a corresponding reduction in the number of visits.

During the year we received a number of complaints from prisoners who objected to their visitors being searched because there were screen visits here.

We the committee recognise screen visits as a proven effective method, together with the netting on the exercise yard, for reducing and stopping drugs being smuggled into prison. Screen visits restrict contact with family and friends and prisoners continue to complain about this. However, the smuggling in of drugs continues to remain a problem in prisons. We reiterate our comments from 2008 and again strongly recommend exploring the possibility of establishing a Drug Free unit within this prison and again suggest exploring the possibly of doing a feasibility study.

### **Merchant Quay Addiction Counsellors**

Merchants Quay addiction counsellors are operational here in Cloverhill since 2008. They provide an on site addiction counselling service in Cloverhill as part of the "Keeping Drugs out of Prison Strategy" (2005).

The aims and objectives of the counselling service is the delivery of high quality addiction counselling services offering evidence-based counselling interventions with clearly defined care plans and goals. The service is provided by Accredited Addiction Counsellors. Counselling interventions include: brief interventions; motivational Interviewing and Motivational Enhancement therapy; 12-step facilitation programme; relapse prevention; cognitive-behavioural therapy; development of alternative coping strategies and harm reduction approaches. The Cloverhill Prison counselling team

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

consists of two counsellors –one part time and one full time, with the counselling Team Leader based nearby in Wheatfield Prison.

They have reported to us that their access to clients has greatly improved in 2010. Their clients often refer themselves or are referred to the service as they have an upcoming court case. This often provides a window of opportunity for the client to start exploring their drug use and make positive changes both in their behaviour and attitudes of the impact of their drug use both on themselves and their families and Also allows the clients, where applicable, to link to their criminal activity to their drug use. Prisoners can then be referred on if they are sentenced and where they indicate that bail will be taken up they are given the information for services in their own locality.

Due to the nature of a remand prison, prisoners are often here for only a short time. Relapse prevention and brief focus interventions and exit strategies are an integral part of the interventions for the clients. The counselling service continues to work within international best practice; in the model of 'Continuum of care' which is a vital part of recovery in addiction and they work within a multi-disciplinary setting in the prison with care and case management as part of the overall rehabilitation process as is best practice.

Statistic supplied by the counselling service for 2010 state that they made 217 referrals from Jan 2010 to Dec 2010. This is a decrease of 34 on the 2009 figure of 251 referrals. Once a prisoner is referred he is usually assessed within one week and if meeting all the assessment criteria is taken on the counsellor's caseload immediately. They assessed and took on 140 of these referrals. The remainder of these 67 had moved on before they could be assessed. They provided a total of 743 counselling sessions throughout 2010.

The counselling contract allows the client to avail of six sessions and after these finish the client is welcome to link in with the service at any time thereafter. Due to the fact that this is a remand prison the service may help the client to seek Addiction support and services when he leaves the prison and in this way provides a continuum of care if the client is motivated to continue with the recovery process. The service has also forged strong links with various treatment facilities and has referred suitable clients to these treatment centres if the client has indicated that this would suit the needs of the client or if the court were to request such an intervention.

The committee have received 1 complaint this year from a prisoner who stated that they have put their name down but had not been seen by a drug counsellor. We brought this to their attention and he was seen on the same day. This is an area we will continue to be monitored during 2011.

### **Health Care**

During the year we have continued to regularly meet with the health care professionals working in the Prison. Primary care continues as the mainstay of medical services to prisoners in Cloverhill with the busy turnover of committals. The number of GPs has been reduced by the Health Care Directorate to 1.5 from 2.0 resulting in three sessions per day instead of four.

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The CMH in-reach team continues to have a significant presence at Cloverhill with a consultant, two registrars and three nurse specialists. The in-reach team from the Central Mental Hospital are normally in the prison five days a week. They provide a valuable court diversion service which continues to be an important initiative, along with being on site to deal with mental health issues. This has had a significant impact on the Psychiatric services provided to prisoners. We feel that prisoner mental health issues are being positively addressed in Cloverhill. However, we feel that there may still be a number of prisoners in custody who should be in the CMH or other secure facilities.

Addiction Services continues to be a major in-reach service with 25% of prisoners receiving Methadone treatment. A visiting consultant supervises the programme and three clinics are run every week. A dedicated Addiction Nurse services this speciality on the Cloverhill nursing staff. There is also a Detox programme for prisoners and there is usually between 25 -30 on this at any one time.

A STI in-reach service continues to operate in Cloverhill under the auspices of St James Hospital Dublin. The caseload of up to 20 patients per clinic day prevents this number of prisoners having to be transferred to hospital for their management. A specialized dedicated nurse is allocated to the consultant clinics which increases the quality of services at Cloverhill.

There are Nurse Leaders in Diabetes, Wound Care and Infection control. All the nurses are trained in Occupational First Aid and CFR certified. They continue to hold Phlebotomy clinics, Vaccinations including at risk prisoners for H1N1 and seasonal influenza, Health Promotion and advice for HIV patients. During 2010 one nurse was trained as a Nurse Prescriber. Healthcare also includes Dental care provided by Dublin Dental hospital, a visiting optician and chiropodist as required. The prison has now acquired an ECG machine and all staff has been trained to undertake these on site in 2011.

An action-learning programme is being introduced to Cloverhill run through a partnership between the Irish Red Cross, Cloverhill Health Care Unit and the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee. In this programme, 15 prisoners have been recruited as Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers to undertake peer-led health and hygiene education and awareness in the prison. This initiative in Irish Prisons is the first in the world to introduce Red Cross volunteers as inmates in a prison following this action learning programme.

During the year we saw a number of prisoners that complained about the medical treatment they received from the Prison Doctor. On inquiring we found that most of them related to the medicine prescribed by the Doctor. We did not feel that any of the complaints we heard were legitimate complaints, however we are not medically qualified.

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### **Prison Psychologist**

We reported in 2009 that there has been no prison psychologist here since 2008. The absence of and access to Psychology services continues to be a major concern here in Cloverhill Prison. It has been highlighted by the chaplains and medical teams in the prison. We have received complaints during the year from prisoners who have not been able to avail of the services of a psychologist here. This is a major concern to the committee. We urge the decision to take the prison Psychologist from here be reconsidered as a matter of priority.

### **Death in Custody**

There were 1 deaths of a prisoner in 2010 who died in hospital of complications from cardio vascular problems.

### **Education**

Education has a significant impact on the daily routine of Prisoners and is an important safety lever in alleviating boredom. Numbers attending the school increased greatly in the 2010. There were an increased number of applications to the school, and an increased number of prisoners who accessed the school timetables and an increased number of prisoners who achieved certification and an increased number of awarding bodies used by the unit to provide certification.

Classes are held in Art, Craft, ECDL, and ESOL. Fetac courses in Computer Literacy, Computer Applications, Data entry, IT skills, Word Processing, Communications, Maths, Personal Effectiveness, Personal Care and Presentation, Living in a Diverse Society, Information Technology, Interpersonal Skills and Health Related Fitness. Also music classes in Royal College of Music Theory Grade 1, Guitar and Keyboard, beginners and improvers. Students have taken and are pursuing Mous computer exams, Junior certificate, Leaving certificate subjects and Fetac levels 3-6. Classes are also held in improvers English, Literacy, Numeracy and Sound Engineering. Also 3 prisoners are enrolled in Open University courses.

The head teacher has informed us that her objectives for 2010 include:

1. To continue to improve access to education for all prisoners.
2. To develop and deliver an induction programme for all new students.
3. To develop the creative arts focus of the curriculum.
4. To promote literacy throughout the prison and to work with the library staff to provide increased literacy support.
5. To promote health awareness in the prison and to liaise with the medical services to provide education in this area.
6. To continue to improve the evaluation process in the unit.

Once again this year all the feedback from prisoners, the committee has spoken to who are attending the school is positive. We are happy to report that during 2010 access to the school has improved for all prisoners. It was agreed between the Head teacher and prison management at the end of the 2009 academic year that the main focus for the coming year (2010) would be to deal with the issue of education for segregated protection prisoners. A number of initiatives were tried and by June 2010 two of protection landings were granted access to the education unit. Previously

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

education took place on the landings which was not an ideal scenario. However in the new academic year 2010 -2011 it is envisaged that all protection prisoners will have access to education in the education unit. This is a huge step forward in the life of the unit and a very positive one for the prisoners and the prison itself.

During 2010 there was also a number of extra Curricular Activities held including : Arts Day, Health and Fitness Challenge Days, Charity Event, Literacy Day, Intercultural Day and Presentations Days.

Previous committees have placed education as a primary priority, this committee wishes to reiterate that sentiment. It is of paramount importance to the committee that prisoners can maximise their educational opportunities. Further to this given that some prisoners are in prison for a short time, the feasibility of a one to one ethos of education should be explored where deemed appropriate by the head teacher. This would ensure that schooling in the prison can have maximum impact and benefit to prisoners.

### **Library**

Library service is provided to Cloverhill Prison by the Dublin Prison Library Service. A professional librarian is available to prison staff on site every Monday and support is available by phone every week day. The library is manned by three prison officers who have been trained to use the library management system software and who are on the library panel. The service would not be as successful as it is without the efforts of these library officers, who take a great sense of ownership of the library. Problems are reported and acted on regularly and systems are adhered to correctly.

Requested books and new titles and magazines are routinely delivered from the library service headquarters in Mountjoy. The library is used in a very varied way. For example, there are those who come in to borrow books and who are avid readers, but there are also many men who come to the library in order to watch DVDs and listen to music, in much the same way as the public library in the community is used. The use of a timetable, where each landing is given a time to attend the library, is a positive aspect of the running of the library as it ensures that every prisoner has the opportunity to go to the library at least once per week.

This we have been informed by the librarian that this is by far the most successful library among the Dublin prisons and is the only adult prison library to open the majority of the time that it is designated to open, on a consistent basis. The Library is an attractive, spacious facility in the prison and it is a popular venue for offenders who use it for recreation and for borrowing.

Library opening in 2010 was 68% of the time it was scheduled to be open and visits in 2009 improved over the 2008 level however the high level of library closure which is due to the frequent redeployment of library officers to other posts in the prison and to escort duties continues to be a cause of concern. The Library continues to be one of the first areas closed if there are staff shortages. In 2010 there were 5712 Visits by prisoners to the library which is an increase on the 2009 figure of 5268.



## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT 2010

During 2010 there was 232 individual requests for specific books this was an increase on the 2009 figure which was 184. Since August the Library Service intends to endeavour to provide activities in the library during school closure periods.

The Senior Librarian receives weekly statistics outlining the nationalities currently in Cloverhill Prison. She used this information when deciding on how to spend the foreign language budget. The main nationalities represented in Cloverhill in 2010 were Polish, Chinese, Romanian and Lithuanian. There are no statistics to indicate the numbers of foreign nationals using the library but anecdotally, a wide variety of nationalities do use the library and most of the foreign language material held in the library is borrowed regularly.

The following services are available to those of non-irish nationality in Cloverhill Library: books in French, Spanish, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Lithuanian, Czech, Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Dutch, German, and Portuguese. Magazines in Spanish and Polish Foreign language films on DVD which can be viewed in the library, using the television or pc. Bibles in a variety of languages and personal dictionaries on request, in addition to dictionaries for reference only in the library. Prisoners of any nationality not served by the library may request books in their own language and these are provided, if available from suppliers, finance permitting. Approximately €3,700 was spent on foreign language material for the Dublin prisons in 2010, which represents 8.2% of the total budget. The Librarian has informed us that it is planned that in 2011, books in Chinese and Romanian will be prioritised.

During 2010 a book club was started in the Library also a pilot project was begun by two prison officers who have had training with NALA (the National Adult Literacy Agency). They hope to teach prisoners with reading difficulties on a one-to-one basis in the library. The idea came from the officers themselves who noticed the low levels of literacy among some prisoners and their reluctance to attend at school, for various reasons. The project is at an early stage but has it is hoped that it will get off the ground properly in 2011. The commitment of these officers is to be commended but unfortunately staff shortages could prove a problem with the implementation of the project. We will monitor this closely in 2011.

#### **Gymnasium**

The Gymnasiums in the prison continues to be well run and are well equipped. It provides quality Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and much needed physical activity. The Gymnasium is available to all prisoners. There are 2 PE Teachers and a number of NECF trained prison officers who work together as a team to provide excellent professional programs and service. They have continued to train a number of inmates up to FETAC standard in fitness.

#### **Kitchen**

The Kitchen caters to and meets the dietary needs of an increasingly diverse prison population. It also caters for the dietary needs of prisoners from other prisons that are held in the courthouse at lunch time.

## **CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

A 28 day rotating menu is used, including a vegetarian option which has been devised by dieticians. In Cloverhill rice is routinely offered as an alternative to potatoes. Good nutritious food continues to be prepared by the professionally qualified officers, and prisoners who work together as part of a team to achieve the highest standards. The Kitchen provides up to 1500 food covers a day more than comparable to any Hotel Kitchen. The quality of food provided and the hygiene standard is excellent. This has been recognised by the fact that the Kitchen has been awarded the National Quality and Excellence Award Q Mark EIQA, the Emerald award is its highest award and this is Cloverhill's 8<sup>th</sup> year to achieve this.

At present a number of prisoners are undertaking the elementary cooking training course under the auspices of Fáilte Ireland and Fetac. The kitchen has increase the number of prisoners employed there from 16 to 21. The committee commend the staff on the standard maintained in the kitchen.

### **Work and Training Work Shops**

We first suggested in our 2007 report that the possibility of setting up a work shop in Cloverhill be explored and work and training opportunities such as short courses such as safe pass, practical cookery, library work shop, craft making etc, be explored for possibility of delivery. In Cloverhill the only work and training opportunities available for prisoners are the Kitchen and Laundry. We are disappointed to note that this has not been explored and that the prison still has no Industrial Manager.

### **Pastoral Care**

The Chaplain of Cloverhill prison is Fr. John O'Sullivan. Sister Carmel, Sister Margaret and Sister Anne continue to help him to provide pastoral care and to Minister to the needs of the whole Prison, prisoners, prisoners families and Prison Officers. Other denominations are served by respective visiting chaplains and we are grateful for their services to the prison community. During 2010 there was a number of Polish masses conducted.

### **Listeners Scheme**

The Listeners scheme was set up in 2002 by the suicide awareness committee. If prisoners who are Listeners move after training, they may, subject to Prison authority permission and their own wish to, join a Listener scheme in the new prison they transfer to, if there is one. A large number of those who were trained in Cloverhill are Listeners in other prisons and one is part of the steering committee to set up the Listener Scheme in Mountjoy. One former Cloverhill Listener is now a Listener in the UK, following repatriation.

The committee were very disappointed in 2009 to learn that this scheme had floundered during 2009. We are please to report that the new Listener steering committee set up in 2010 has successfully resurrected the listener's scheme in Cloverhill prisons and that a number of prisoners are now trained as listeners. We wish to praise the Samaritans, prison staff and the prisoners who take part in this scheme, which we see as being very important in helping other prisoners with difficulties they may have. We will continue to monitor this during 2011.

## **CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

### **Visit to Limerick Prison.**

During the year the committee visited Limerick Prison. The value of such fact finding visits are very important in highlighting what is missing from this prison in terms of facilities for prisoners. We were particularly interested in their video link facilities and feel we compare favourable in this instance with them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor of Limerick Prison Tadgh O’Riordan and his deputy Mr Eamon Mullane and all his staff for their courtesy which they displayed to us and the time they took to answer our questions.

### **Visitors Centre**

The centre which is jointly run by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and The Society of Friends (Quakers), is open 6 days a week with eight staff members and a number of volunteers. They provide a free tea/coffee/snack bar service, parenting advice and support, support for families, information service and a volunteer programme.

### **Inspector of Prisons**

The new inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly visited the prison in 2010. The committee did not meet him but hope to meet him in 2011.

### **Meeting with the Director of Operations of the Irish Prison Service.**

The committee were scheduled to meet the Director General of the Irish Prison Service Mr Purcell in February but he could not attend, we met instead with the Director of Operations Mr William Connolly and had a frank information meeting. We view these meetings as a very proactive and positive development and a good opportunity for acquiring information, clarifying and highlighting issues and exchanging opinions.

### **Video Conferencing**

The committee welcomed this development which has remained as a pilot in Cloverhill since February 2007. We urged in 2008 the expansion of this service to other solicitor’s practices, prisons and courts. We were informed during 2009 that the pilot was ending and that the service was being expanded, we are disappointed to note that to date it has only expanded by one solicitor.

We have been informed that the video conferences facilities for the courts are ready here for use by the courts. We hope it will be used by the new Criminal Court of Justice. We see it as a positive development which will benefit the prison management and the prisoner alike.

### **Chairman’s Meetings**

During the year Mr Coyle the Chairman attended a number of Chairman’s meetings around the country in a number of prisons. These meetings are an invaluable resource for the purpose of sharing information and acquiring prison based knowledge. It is also a way of identifying problems that affect all prisons.

Representatives from the chairman’s group regularly met Mr Purcell the Director General of the Prison service during 2010.

## CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### **Conclusion**

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. The committee has exercised its duties diligently and are committed to exercising them in full in 2010. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Governor and his staff.

We would like to thank Governor Quigley, Deputy Governor Gerry Bracken and the committee's secretary Ms Maria Connolly and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

We the committee finally wish to thank you Minister and trust we have been of service during the year and can continue to be of service.

---

Michael Coyle  
Chairman

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Peggy Downey \_\_\_\_\_

Fintan Hudson \_\_\_\_\_

Eddie Martin \_\_\_\_\_

Christine Ryan \_\_\_\_\_

Mary O'Neill \_\_\_\_\_

Pearse O'Hanrahan \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_